THE PRINCIPAL

ACTS

OF THE

General Assembly

OF THE

CHURCH

OF

SCOTLAND;

Conveened at *Edinburgh*, the 3d Day of *May*, 1716.

Collected and extracted from the Records, by the Clerk thereof.

EDINBURGH,
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Holden and begun at *Edinburgh*, upon *Thursday* the 3d Day of *May* 1716, and ending the 16th Day of that same Month and Year.

I.

ACT appointing the King's Commission to John *Earl of* Rothes, *to be recorded.*

At *Edinburgh*, 3d *May* 1716, Session 1.

THE General Assembly of the Ministers and Ruling Elders of this National Church of *Scotland*, being conveened and constituted, there was produced to them, by the Right Honourable, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, His Majesty's Commission, sealed with the Seal appointed by the Treaty of Union betwixt the two Kingdoms of *Scotland* and *England*, to be kept and used in *Scotland*, in Place of the Great Seal of *Scotland*, of the same Tenor with the Commission granted by His Majesty to the foresaid Earl last Year, constituting him His Majesty's high Commissioner and Representative in this Assembly: Which Commission being publickly read, with all due Honour and Respect, is by Order of this Assembly recorded in their Books, to remain therein, *ad futuram Rei Memoriam.*

II.

The King's most gracious Letter to the General Assembly, presented to them by His Majesty's Commissioner, 3d May 1716.

GEORGE R.

RIght Reverend and Well-beloved, We greet you well: The fresh Proofs you have given Us, during the Course of the late unhappy and unnatural Rebellion, of your firm Adherence to those Principles on which the Security of Our Government, and the Happiness of Our Subjects do entirely depend; and the Accounts We have from Time to Time received of your great Care to infuse the same into the People under your Charge, do engage Us to return you Our hearty Thanks, and to renew to you the Assurances We have formerly given you, of Our unalterable Resolution, to maintain the established Government of the Church of that Part of Our Kingdom of *Great Britain*, in the full Enjoyment of all just Rights and Privileges: For this End, We have thought fit to countenance your Meeting together at this Time, and again to make Choice of Our Right Trusty and entirely Beloved Cousin, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, to be Our Commissioner, and to represent Our Royal Person in this Assembly, whose singular Zeal for Our Service, and the Interest of his Country, by which he has always distinguished himself, as well as his faithful Discharge of the same high Trust on the last Occasion, will, We doubt not, render him acceptable to you; and as We have nothing more in View than promoting true Religion and Piety, the restoring the Peace and Quiet of the Country, that all Our Subjects may have it in their Power to be happy under Our Administration, and easy with regard both to their religious and civil Concerns, your concurring on your Parts, to the carrying on of these laudible Ends, and your answering these Our just Views, for the publick Tranquillity, both of Church and State, is what We earnestly recommend to you; and the Confidence We have in your Prudence and Moderation is such, as leaves Us no room to doubt, but that We shall have full Satisfaction in your Conduct: So We bid you heartily Farewel.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, *this Twenty third Day of* April, *One thousand seven hundred and sixteen Years, in the second Year of Our Reign.*

By His Majesty's Command,
TOWNSHEND.

Directed thus,
To the Right Reverend and Well-beloved, the Moderator, Ministers, and Elders of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

III. *The*

III.

The General Assembly's Answer to the King's most gracious Letter.

Edinburgh, 5th *May* 1716.

May it please your Majesty,

WE accept with the greatest Thankfulness, Your Majesty's Royal Favour, in continuing to countenance our Assemblies, and the Honour of Your gracious Letter to us. The Notice Your Majesty is pleased to take of our Behaviour upon Occasion of the late unhappy and unnatural Rebellion, as it greatly hightens our Satisfaction, in having been enabled by the Divine Assistance to exert our selves in any Way answerably to our Duty to Your Majesty, so it puts us under new Obligations to lay out our selves, as we have Access, to advance the Interest of Your Majesty's Government, upon the Peace and Prosperity whereof the Preservation of our holy Religion and our own Safety under GOD do entirely depend: And particularly, we judge our selves most strictly bound to continue our Endeavours to impress the Minds of the People under our Charge, with a Sense of their Happiness under Your Majesty's wise and good Administration, and of the strictest Ties they are under, by Laws Divine and Humane, to all the Duties of Loyalty and Fidelity to Your Majesty, their only Rightful and Lawful Sovereign.

That Your Majesty should have, in Your great Condescension, put so high an Honour upon us, as to give us Thanks for doing what was our unquestionable Duty and Interest, is a Proof of that distinguishing Goodness, which makes so bright a Part of Your Majesty's Princely Character.

We cannot sufficiently express the grateful Sense we have of Your Majesty's Goodness, in giving us repeated Assurances of Your unalterable Resolution to maintain the established Government of Your Church, in the full Enjoyment of all just Rights and Privileges; which gives us full Hopes, That in due Time we shall obtain Redress of the Grievances that we were brought under before Your Majesty came to the Throne, and which were laid before Your Majesty by a Memorial from the last Assembly.

Your Majesty's Choice of the Earl of *Rothes*, to represent Your Royal Person in this Assembly, is a particular Instance of Your Majesty's Royal Favour to this Church; the extraordinary Zeal he hath shown upon all Occasions for the Protestant Succession, by the Part he acted, both before Your Majesty's happy Accession to the Throne, and in the Time of the late Rebellion, and his wise and kind Conduct in the last Assembly, render him most acceptable to us.

Your Majesty's having nothing more in Your View, than the promoting of true Religion and Piety, and making all Your People

happy under Your Adminiſtration, leaves us utterly inexcuſeable, ſhould we not on our Part concur, as we have Acceſs, for advancing thoſe great and noble Ends, ſince we are in the great Goodneſs of GOD, by a very peculiar Providence, under the Influence of a Prince, who is ſo great a Pattern and Encourager of Piety and Virtue.

We ſhould be wanting to the Duty we owe to GOD, and to the beſt of Kings, if we did not endeavour by our Deportment to anſwer the juſt Expectations Your Majeſty is pleaſed to have of our Prudence and Moderation in this Aſſembly.

We adore the bleſſed GOD, who in great Mercy to us hath brought Your Majeſty to the Throne, and appeared ſo gloriouſly in Behalf of Your juſt Cauſe, giving You Victory over Your unprovoked and ungrateful Enemies; and, to our Amazement, bleſſed Your Councils and Arms with ſuch ſpeedy Succeſs in reſtoring Peace and Tranquillity, that the remoteſt Places and Iſlands are repreſented in this Aſſembly. That the ſame GOD may long preſerve Your Royal Perſon in Health and Safety, That He may enrich Your Majeſty, and your Royal Family, with all the Bleſſings of His Grace and Goodneſs here on Earth; and after a long and proſperous Reign, crown You with immortal Glory, are the earneſt Prayers of,

May it pleaſe Your Majeſty,

Your Majeſty's moſt Faithful, moſt Dutiful, moſt Obedient and moſt Humble Subjects,

The Miniſters and Elders, met in this National Aſſembly of the Church of Scotland.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by
WILL. HAMILTON Moderator.

IV.

ACT *for furthering the pious Deſign of the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge.*

At *Edinburgh*, 7th *May* 1716, Seſſion 4.

THE which Day there was tranſmitted from the Committee for Bills, a Petition, the Tenor whereof follows, *Unto the very Reverend, The Moderator, and others, the Reverend and Honourable Members of the General Aſſembly of the Church of* Scotland, *the Petition of the Committee of the Society in* Scotland *for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, humbly ſheweth,* That we by our Ad-

Addreſs to the late General Aſſembly, did lay before them a diſtinct Account of the Diligence, Succeſs and Progreſs of the Society, and obtained from them a preſſing Recommendation for a publick Contribution, toward the further advancing of the Chriſtian Undertaking of the Society, by furniſhing their Scholars with neceſſary Books, and ſettling of more Schools in thoſe Places that want the ſame; but the breaking out of the late unnatural Rebellion, did put a Stop to the proſecuting of that Recommendation. We think this late Inſurrection has given a convincing Evidence, how hurtful the Rudeneſs and Ignorance of the common People in the *Highlands* and *Iſlands* of *Scotland* has proven, and may yet prove, to the Commonwealth, if Care be not taken to cure it: For it is obvious, that this did, and will ſtill make them fit Tools in the Hands of their *Popiſh* or *Jacobite* Chiſtains and Landlords, for carrying on their rebellious Projects of overturning our happy Eſtabliſhment: Whereas, were thoſe poor People more impreſt with the right Notions of a Deity, and were better acquainted with the Principles of our holy Religion, that teaches Obedience, next unto GOD, unto ſupreme lawful Authority, were they, by being inured to Virtue, and by Education in honeſt Imployments, freed from the pinching Straits of extreme Poverty, which occaſions their ſlaviſh Subjection to their Maſters, they would not ſo blindly go in to the Meaſures of their imperious Landlords or Superiors; and the procuring all theſe Advantages is the plain Deſign and palpable Tendency, and will be the certain Effect of the Care of the Society for propagating Chriſtian Knowledge, if it be duly encouraged: And it is hoped, that all the true Lovers of our holy Religion, and of their King and Country, will need no other Argument to induce them chearfully and liberally to contribute to ſo noble and Chriſtian an Undertaking than this, to make of a poor rude and ignorant People, now dangerous and hurtful to the Nation, profitable Members of the Commonwealth. And the Committee does not doubt, but as our Church has in all her Aſſemblies, ſhown a great Readineſs to forward the Deſign of the Society, ſo now, when through the Mercy and Goodneſs of GOD, that dangerous Rebellion is ſuppreſt, this venerable Aſſembly will find themſelves called and encouraged to continue the ſame pious and Chriſtian Zeal. *May it therefore pleaſe this venerable Aſſembly, to cauſe read the ſaid Act and Recommendation, and to renew the ſame, appointing all Presbyteries to cauſe intimate the foreſaid Act from the Pulpits within their Bounds, and to ſend in their Contributions to the Treaſurer of the Society; and alſo a Report of their Diligence, to the Commiſſion of the General Aſſembly, betwixt and the firſt Day of* January *next.* This, in Name of the ſaid Committee, is ſubſcribed by *ALEXANDER DUNDAS*, P. C. The General Aſſembly having heard and conſidered the foreſaid Petition, and Opinion of their Committee for Bills thereupon; and having cauſed read the ſaid Act and Recommendation of the late General Aſſembly in Favours of the foreſaid Society, did, and hereby do renew the ſame, and did unanimouſly recommend

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a publick Collection at all the Church Doors within *Scotland* (except the Churches of *Edinburgh*) upon the third LORD's Day of *Auguſt* next; and that the ſaid Collection be in *Edinburgh*, at ſuch a Time, and in ſuch a Manner, as ſhall be thought moſt proper by the Magiſtrates of the ſaid City, and Committee of the Society: And the General Aſſembly appoints the Money thus collected to be forthwith lodged by the ſeveral Miniſters, in the Hands of the Moderators of their Presbyteries, who are deſired to keep an exact Account of what they receive, and from whom, and when; and the ſaid Moderators are deſired to ſend up the ſaid Money, as it comes to their Hands, together with a Copy of the ſaid Accounts, to Mr. *George Watſon* Merchant, the Society's Treaſurer, with all convenient Diligence, to be diſpoſed of for the Uſes expreſt in the ſaid Act and Recommendation of the late General Aſſembly; and appoints that Act, together with thir Preſents, to be read at the Intimation of this Collection, from the Pulpits, on the LORD's Day preceeding the ſaid Collection. And the General Aſſembly earneſtly deſires all Miniſters and others, who have ſubſcribed, and have not paid in what they ſubſcribed for, to ſend in the ſame to the Society's Treaſurer: And appoints the ſeveral Preſbyteries to ſee to the effectual Proſecution of this Recommendation, within their reſpective Bounds, and to report their Diligence herein to their Synods, and alſo to the Commiſſion of this Aſſembly, betwixt and the firſt Day of *January* next. And further, the General Aſſembly appoints their Moderator, and others of their Number, who are Members of the foreſaid Society, at their firſt General Meeting, to give them the hearty Thanks of this Aſſembly, for their great Concern and unwearied Diligence, in advancing ſo noble an Undertaking: And to ſhew them, That this Aſſembly did moſt unanimouſly and cordially grant the Deſire of the foreſaid Petition.

V.

Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Ruling Elders, for diſcuſſing divers Affairs referred to them.

At *Edinburgh*, 24th *May* 1716, Poſt Merid.

THE General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, taking to their Conſideration, That there are divers weighty Affairs, which they cannot overtake, Do nominate and appoint their reverend Brethren, Maſters *William Hamilton* Profeſſor of Divinity in the College of *Edinburgh* their Moderator, *Thomas Warner* at *Balmaclellan*, *Thomas Warner* at *Irving*, *William Veitch* at *Dumfries*, *Thomas Blackwel* Profeſſor of Divinity in *Marſhal*'s College at *Aberdeen*, *David Anderſon* Profeſſor of Divinity in the King's College there, *Alexander Mitchel* at Old *Machar*, *Colin Campbell* at *Aberdeen*, *Alexander Toaſch* at *Tarland*, *William Mair* at *Kincardine*,

tardine, John Shepherd at Midmar, James Brown at Aberdour, Alexander Auchinleck at Fraſersburgh, William Leſly at Chappel of Garrioch, James Gordon at Courtry, Alexander Shand at Inch, John Turvin at Drumblad, Alexander Roſs at Auchterleſs, Patrick Darling at Baynd, Alexander Irving at Cullen, George Moir at Tawie, Patrick Coupland at Touch, Henry Lickly at Old Meldrum, Alexander Gordon at Foveraign, John Gilchriſt at Keith, Hugh Innes at Mortlith, Daniel Mackenzie at Aberdour, James Steveniſon at Glenlivet, James Chapman at Crumdale, James Thomſon at Elgin, Joſeph Sanderſon at Alves, Charles Primroſe at Forreſs, John Crokat at Dolloſſe, William Stewart and Robert Baillie at Inverneſs, Daniel M'Gillikin at Alves, Thomas Chiſſom at Kilmorock, David Roſs at Tarbat, Hugh Duff at Fern, Robert Kirk at Dornock, William M'Beith at Olrig, Hugh Corſs at Bowar, Alexander Grant at Southronaldſhey, Richard Mein at Stronſey, James Grierſon at Tingwal, William Wiſheart at Edinburgh, William Mitchel there, John Schaw at Leith, Thomas Paterſon at Weſtkirk, John M'Laren at Edinburgh, John Bannatine there, Alexander Dolgliſh at Linlithgow, John Bonnar at Torphichan, John Smith at Livingſtoun, John Baillie at Inchmachan, Robert Livingſtoun at Biggar, John Sandilands at Dolphingtoun, Alexander Walker at Kirkurd, William Higgins at Tweedmnre, Stephen Paton at Newlands, David Hutchiſon at Dalkeith, John Wilſon at Glencorſs, Patrick Cuming at Ormiſtoun, John Curtie at Haddingtoun, Robert Horſeburgh at Saltpreſtoun, James Alſton at Dirletoun, George Turnbul at Tinninghame, Thomas Daviaſon at Whitekirk, Laurence Johnſton at Dunſe, Walter Hart at Preſtoun, Alexander Lauder at Mordingtoun, John Pow at Lennel, Alexander Trotter at Edram, James Ramſay at Kelſo, Walter Douglas at Lintoun, Daniel M'Kay at Jedburgh, William Guſtard at Crenllin, George Elliot at Hounam, John Gaudie at Erlſtoun, David Brown at Gordon, Gabriel Wilſon at Maxtoun, Henry Davidſon at Gallaſhiels, Thomas Howie at Annan, Robert Darling at Ewes, David Wightman at Applegirth, Francis Lindſay at Johnſtoun, Robert Jardon at Cummertrees, Simon Riddel at Tinrom, John Pollock at Glencairn, Patrick Linn at Dumfries, John Somervel at Carlabework, John Campbell at Kirkbean, Andrew Cameron at Kirkcudbright, Patrick Johnſton at Girthon, William Falconar at Keltoun, Thomas Ker at Wigtoun, John M'Caul at Whithorn, Robert Ferguſſon at Calmonel, William Wilſon at Inch, John Hunter at Air, Andrew Rodger at Galſtoun, Alexander Kennedy at Straitoun, John Grant at Anchinleck, John M'Dermeit at Dalmellingtoun, John Glaſgow at Kilbirnie, Andrew Cuming at Largs, George Pedding at Kilmarnock, Robert Miller at Paiſley, Robert Johnſton at Kilbarchan, Robert Maxwel at Kilmacolm, Alexander Finlater at Hamiltoun, John Wiſeman at New-muckland, William Hamilton at Bothwel, John Orr at Lanerk, Thomas Linen at Leſmahago, Robert Gray at Wiſtoun, George Campbell at Glaſgow, Andrew Tait at Carmunock, Charles Coatts at Govan, John Anderſon at Dumbartoun, Robert Wallace at Badernoch, Thomas Leckie at Kilmaronock, Walter Campbell at Dunnoon, Daniel M'Laurin at Kilfinan, Alexander Campbell at Inverary, James Gettie there, James Bowes at Campbeltoun in Kintyre, Dougald Campbell at Southend, Daniel Mackneil

at *Morvern* in *Lorn*, *John Macklean* in *Mull*, *Daniel Mackaulay* in *Braccadale* in *Skie*, *Dougald Mackpherſon* at *Duirineſs* there, *Alexander Glaſs* at *Kintlaven* in the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, *Alexander Chapman* at *Monedie*, *John Halket* at *Keppet*, *George Frier* at *Lethandie*, *John Fleeming* at *Perth*, *William Moncrieff* at *Methven*, *Thomas Fiſher* at *Rind*, *Robert Lyon* at *Kinfauns*, *Matthew Wallace* at *Kincardine* in the Presbytery of *Dumblain*, *Hugh Walker* at *Lecrop*, *James Brisbane* at *Stirling*, *John Warden* at *Gargunnuck*, *John Drummond* at *Creich* in the Presbytery of *Aucherarder*, *Archibald Moncrieff* at *Blackford*, *Andrew Burgh* at *Maitherty*, *Samuel Charters* at *Innerkeithing* in the Presbytery of *Dumfermling*, *Allan Logan* at *Torrieburn*, *John Gib* at *Cleiſh*, *John Dryſdale* at *Kirkaldy*, *David Pitcairn* at *Dyſert*, *John Currie* at *Kinglaſſie*, *William Dick* at *Couper*, *George Gilleſpie* at *Stramiglo*, *William Brown* at *Kilmonie*, *Andrew Melvil* at *Moniemail*, *James Haddow* Principal of the New College of St. *Andrews*, *Joſeph Drew* Principal of St. *Leonard's* College there, *James Chalmers* at *Elie*, *Andrew Burne* at *Anſtruther*, *James Robertſon* at *Leuchars*, *William Stewart* at *Blair goury*, *John Thomſon* at *Alith*, *John Heugh* at *Kingoldrum*, *Samuel Johnſton* at *Dundee*, *George Blackie*, at *Inchſture*, *James Goodſir* at *Strathmartine*, *Robert Young* at *Inverarity*, *Thomas Watſon* at St. *Vigens*, *James Robertſon* at *Kinnel*, *John Willieſon at Brichen*, *James Trail* at *Montroſe*, *Robert Gray* at *Edzel*, *Andrew Honyman* at *Kinneff*, *David Ramſay* at *Fettercairn*, and *James Mitchel* at *Dunottar*, Miniſters: *John* Duke of *Athol*, *John* Earl of *Rothes*, *David* Earl of *Buchan*, *Thomas* Earl of *Haddingtoun*, *James* Earl of *Finlator*, *William* Earl of *Kilmarnock*, *John* Earl of *Ruglen*, *Patrick* Earl of *Marchmont*, *James* Earl of *Hyndford*, *David* Earl of *Glaſgow*, *Archibald* Earl of *Ilay*, *William* Lord *Strathnaver*, *Alexander* Lord *Polwarth*, Lord *Charles Ker* Director of His Majeſty's Chancellary, *William* Lord *Forbes*, *William* Lord *Roſs*, *James* Lord *Torphichen*, *George* Lord *Rae*, Sir *Hugh Dalrymple* of *Northberwick* Baronet, Lord Preſident of the Seſſion, *Adam Cockburn* of *Ormiſtoun* Lord Juſtice Clerk, Sir *John Maxwel* of Nether-*Pollock* Baronet, Sir *Gilbert Eliot* of *Minto* Baronet, Sir *Alexander Ogilvy* of *Forglen* Baronet, Mr. *James Hamilton* of *Pancaitland*, and Sir *Andrew Hume* of *Kimmerghame*, Seven Lords of Seſſion, *John Clark* one of the Barons of Exchequer, Sir *David Dalrymple* of *Hailes* Baronet His Majeſty's Advocate, Mr. *John Campbell* of *Mamore* Uncle to his Grace the Duke of *Argyle*, Mr. *Francis Montgomery* of *Giffen* Uncle to the Earl of *Eglingtonn*, Coionel *William Dalrymple* of *Glenmore*, Mr. *Arthur Forbes* of *Breda* Son to the late Lord *Forbes*, Colonel *John Erskine* of *Carnock* Son to the deceaſt *David* Lord *Cardroſs*, Sir *James Stewart* of *Goodtrees* Baronet His Majeſty's Sollicitor, *Robert Stewart* Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *Arthur Forbes* of *Echt*, Captain *John Forbes* of *Boyndlie*, *John Allardice* late Provoſt of *Aberdeen*, *George Fordice* of *Bruxie*, Mr. *George Gordon* Profeſſor of the Oriental Languages in the King's College at *Aberdeen*, Brigadeer *Alexander Grant* of that Ilk, Mr. *Patrick Grant* of Eaſter *Elches* Advocate, *James Brodie* of that Ilk, Mr. *William Brodie* Advocate, Mr. *Duncan For-*

Pro-

bes Advocate, Colonel *Robert Monro* of *Foulis*, Sir *Willim Gordon* of *Dalfolly* Baronet, *Hugh Ross* of *Bralangwel*, *John Campbell* Lord voſt of *Edinburgh*, Sir *Walter Pringle* Advocate, Doctor *Matthew Sinclair* of *Hermiſtoun*, Doctor *Alexander Dundas*, Doctor *David Mitchel*, Doctor *James Forreſt*, Doctor *William Stewart* of *Ambriſmore*, Doctor *John Riddel*, Phyſicians; Sir *Andrew Myrton* of *Gogar* Baronet, Captain *Matthew Campbell*, *David Mitchel* Goldſmith in *Edinburgh*, Mr. *John Goodall* Profeſſor of *Hebrew* in the College of *Edinburgh*, Sir *George Wiſheart* of *Cliftonhall*, Mr. *John Mitchel* of *Alderſtoun*, *William Baillie* of *Lamingtoun*, Mr. *Alexander Menzies* of *Culterallars* Advocate, *Tweedy* Provoſt of *Peebles*, Sir *John Clark* of *Pennycook*, *Charles Brown* of *Colſtoun*, Sir *Robert Dalrymple* of *Caſtletoun*, Sir *William Baird* of *Newbyth* Baronet, Sir *James Hall* of *Dunglaſs* Baronet, Mr. *James Hume* of *Eccles* Advocate, Sir *John Stewart* of *Allanbank* Baronet, Sir *John Swinton* of that Ilk Baronet, Sir *John Pringle* of *Stitchel* Baronet, *Archibald Douglaſs* of *Cavers*, Sir *Gilbert Elliot* of *Stobs* Baronet, *George Baillie* of *Jerviſwood*, *George Pringle* of *Greenknows*, *Walter Hume* of *Baſſenden*, *Robert Rutherford* of *Fernylees*, Sir *William Johnſtoun* of *Weſterraw* Baronet, Sir *Thomas Kirkpatrick* of *Cloſeburn* Baronet, Mr. *James Baillie* Writer to the Signet, *Robert Corbet* Provoſt of *Dumfries*, Colonel *William Maxwel* of *Cardonneſs*, *John Martine* of *Airies*, Sir *James Agnew* of *Lochnaw* Baronet, heritable Sheriff Principal of *Galloway*, Sir *Charles Hay* of *Park* Baronet, Sir *Adam Whitfoord* of *Blairquhan* Baronet, Mr. *James Boſual* of *Auchinleck* Advocate, *John Cuningham* of *Entrikin*, Capt. *John Campbell* of *Over-walwood*, *William Macktagart* Provoſt of *Irving*, Sir *Robert Pollock* of that Ilk Baronet, *William Muir* of *Caldwall*, Sir *David Stewart* of *Cultneſs* Baronet, *Hugh Montgomery* of *Hartfield*, *John Bowman* Provoſt of *Glaſgow*, Mr. *William Forbes* Advocate, Profeſſor of Law in the College of *Glaſgow*, Sir *James Smollet* of *Bonhill* Provoſt of *Dumbarton*, *Archibald Mackaullay* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, Sir *James Campbell* of *Ardkinglaſs* Baronet, Sir *James Campbell* of *Auchinbreck* Baronet, *Angus Campbell* of *Shipnidge*, *Peter Campbell* of *Invereenon*, Mr. *Robert Stewart* one the Regents in the College of *Edinburgh*, Mr. *James Leblanc* Merchant, Mr. *Gilbert Burnet* Advocate, and Mr. *George Drummond*, Two of the Commiſſioners of His Majeſty's Exciſe, Sir *George Warrander* of *Lochend* Baronet, *John Ruſſel* of *Braidſhaw*, *William Auſtin* Provoſt of *Perth*, Sir *James Holburn* of *Menſtrie* Baronet, Mr. *Alexander Abercrombie* of *Tillibodie*, Brigadeer *James Bruce* of *Kennet*, Colonel *John Blaccader*, Colonel *John Erskine* Uncle to *Alva*, Sir *Hary Rollo* of *Woodſide*, Sir *James Campbel* of *Aberachil* Baronet, Sir *Robert Blackwood* of *Pitrevie*, *Henry Cunninghame* of *Balquhan*, Mr. *Robert Hay* of *Naughtoun*, Mr. *Robert Ramſay* Provoſt of the old College of St. *Andrews*, *John Scrimzeour* of *Telen* Provoſt of *Dundee*, *Robert Craig* Dean of Guild of *Edinburgh*, *John Duncan* late Dean of Guild there, *William Livingſton* late Deacon Conveener there, Mr. *Joſeph Cave* one of the Officers of His Majeſty's Mint, Mr. *John Henderſon* Merchant in *Edinburgh*, *James Nimmo* Merchant there, *Robere Inglis* Goldſmith late Dea-

con Conveener there, Mr. *Alexander Nisbet* Chirurgion late Deacon Conveener there, *John Knox* Chirurgion there, and *John Lennox* late Deacon of the Skinners there, Ruling Elders; to be Commiſſioners of the General Aſſembly, to the Effect aftermentioned, with Power to the ſaid Perſons, or their *Quorum*, which is hereby declared to be any Thirty one of the ſaid Commiſſioners, whereof Twenty one are always to be Miniſters, to meet and conveen within the Aſſemby-Houſe at *Edinburgh*, the firſt Day after the Diſſolution of this Aſſembly, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, and afteward the ſecond *Wedneſdays* of *Auguſt*, *November* and *March*, and oftner, when or where they ſhall think needful and convenient, with Power to the ſaid Commiſſioners to chooſe their own Moderator. And ſicklike, the General Aſſembly fully impowers and authorizes their ſaid Commiſſion, or their *Quorum*, above-mentioned, to cognoſce and finally determine, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, in every Matter referred, or that ſhall be referred to them, by any Act or Order of this General Aſſembly, and to do every Thing contained in, and conform to the Inſtructions to be given them by this Aſſembly, and to advert to the Intereſts of the Church on every Occaſion, that the Church, and preſent Eſtabliſhment thereof, do not ſuffer or ſuſtain any Prejudice which they can prevent, as they will be anſwerable; providing this general Clauſe be not extended to particular Affairs or Proceſſes before Presbyteries or Synods, that are not of univerſal Concern to, or Influence upon this whole Church. And it is declared and appointed, That what ſhall be determined at one Diet of the ſaid Commiſſion, with relation to private Cauſes, ſhall be unalterable by any other Diet thereof, and ſhall ſtand and continue in Force till diſapproven by the General Aſſembly. And the General Aſſembly hereby renew the Inſtructions given by the General Aſſembly, *Anno* One thouſand ſeven hundred and thirteen, to their Commiſſioners, and appoints the ſame to ſtand in full Force, as Inſtructions to the Commiſſioners above-named, and to be obſerved by them in all Points, as if the ſame were ſpecially herein inſert: And the ſaid Commiſſioners are hereby ſtrictly prohibited and diſcharged to meddle in any other Matters, than what are committed or referred to them, as above-mentioned; and in all their Actings, they are to proceed according to the Acts and Canſtitutions of this Church, and do nothing contrair thereto, or to the Prejudice of the ſame: Declaring, That in, and for all their Actings, they ſhall be accountable to, and cenſurable by the next General Aſſembly, as they ſhall ſee Cauſe: And this Commiſſion is to continue and endure, until another Commiſſion be appointed; and Members are required to attend the Diets of the ſaid Commiſſion, and Abſents thereſrom ordered to be noticed, according to the 17th Act of the General Aſſembly, *Anno* One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſix. And for the better ſecuring of a *Quorum*, and Attendance of Members on the Commiſſion, the Aſſembly prohibits the Presbytery of *Edinburgh*, and other Presbyteries within twelve Miles thereof, to meet any of the Days or Weeks appointed for Meetings of the Commiſ-

on

ſion; and ſuch of the Members of theſe Presbyteries as are on the Commiſſion, are required all of them to give punctual Attendance on the Diets thereof; and Presbyteries at a greater Diſtance, who have four or moe Members on the Commiſſion, are to take Care, That at leaſt two of them attend, each Diet of the Commiſſion.

VI.

A congratulatory Addreſs to the KING, upon ſuppreſſing the Rebellion.

At *Edinburgh*, 15th *May* 1716, Seſſion 12.

Moſt gracious Sovereign,

WE Your Majeſty's moſt Dutiful and moſt Loyal Subjects, The Miniſters and Elders of the General Aſſembly of the Church of *Scotland*, cannot look upon our ſelves as ſitting again under Your Majeſty's moſt auſpicious Protection after the late wicked Rebellion, which threatned us with the Loſs of ſo dear a Bleſſing, without expreſſing our unfeigned Thanks to the Almighty, and declaring to the World, our inward Joy for Your Majeſty's Succeſſes and our own Deliverance.

Safe under Your Majeſty's happy Government, we can look back on the blackeſt Scenes of the late unnatural Treaſon, we can ſee *Rome* in League with the Enemy of our Church and State, ſowing the Seeds of Rebellion, ſouring the Minds of headleſs People with groundleſs Jealouſies, plotting the Deſtruction of Your Royal Perſon, on which our Happineſs with that of all the *Proteſtant* Churches under GOD doth depend, and breaking out at length into open War, with ſuch Multitudes of armed Traitors as ſeemed for a Seaſon irreſiſtible; and at the ſame Time we can view with Pleaſure, Heaven interpoſing in Your Majeſty's Behalf, and in ours, ſeating Your Majeſty ſo ſeaſonably upon the Throne, early diſcloſing the hidden Treaſon, guiding Your Majeſty's ſteady Councils, leading Your victorious General the Duke of *Argyle*, to the unexpected Overthrow of ſuch unequal Numbers, and conducting him in the Purſuit of the *Pretender* to Your Crown, till by an inglorious Flight, he left our Country free from the great Dangers we were in by the Rebellion, and his deluded Friends filled with Confuſion. Upon all which, we cannot but, with thankful Hearts, acknowledge our deep Senſe of Your Majeſty's wiſe and fatherly Care for Your Loyal Subjects, which neither the extraordinary Rigour of the Seaſon, nor the falacious Propoſals of the Rebels, could divert from the neceſſary Means of their ſpeedy Relief.

Great Sir, It is to us Matter of particular Thankfulneſs and Joy, That, amidſt ſo great Difficulties and Dangers, the Miniſters and Members of this Church have thro' the Divine Favour been helped to a firm and zealous Adherence to Your Majeſty's Perſon and Government; and it is our firm Reſolution to perſevere in our Duty and Loyalty to Your Majeſty, and to made it our conſtant and earneſt Requeſt to our gracious GOD, That He may unite the Hearts of all Your Subjects into a Senſe of their great Happineſs under the Government of the beſt of Kings.

May the ſame kind Providence, that hath ſo ſignally watched over, and eminently bleſſed Your Royal Perſon, continue to Preſerve Your Majeſty, bleſs Your Royal Family, direct Your Councils, and make Your Reign over us Long and Proſperous; and after Your Majeſty, may the Crown of theſe Kingdoms; and the Defence of the Proteſtant Religion, deſcend to Your Royal Iſſue to lateſt Poſterity.

Signed in our Preſence, in our Name, and at our Appointment, by
WILL. HAMILTON, Moderator.

VII.

ACT *renewing the Commiſſion and Powers given by the late General Aſſembly, to their Committee, for preſerving and maintaining the Purity of Doctrine; and for conſidering the Proceſs Mr.* James Webſter *againſt Mr.* John Simſon.

At *Edinburgh*, 15th *May* 1716,

THE General Aſſembly conſidering, That they have not now Time fully and deliberately to conſider the Points charged by Mr. *James Webſter* againſt Mr. *John Simſon*, as Error, and that it is neceſſary for preſerving the Purity of Doctrine and Peace of this Church, that the ſame be throughly examined, and that the Aſſembly do what is proper for them at this Time to hinder the ſpreading of Error in this Church; Therefore, the General Aſſembly do hereby enjoin the ſaid Mr. *John Simſon*, and all others whatſomever, to forbear Teaching, or any Way venting the Propoſitions charged by the ſaid Mr. *James Webſter* againſt the ſaid Mr. *Simſon*, as Error, and given in to this Aſſembly, until they be cognoſced and determined by the Judicatures of this Church: And the Committee appointed by the laſt Aſſembly, having made ſome Progreſs in their Work, which they had not Time to finiſh, being hindred therein by the late Rebellion; therefore, to the End that this Affair may be fully tried and examined, the General Aſſembly does hereby renew the Commiſſion and Inſtructions given by the late General Aſſembly, to the Miniſters and Ruling Elders therein named; and do not only appoint ſuch of the ſaid Perſons as are yet alive, to proceed according to the ſaid Commiſſion and Inſtructions, in examining the Points remitted to them by the ſaid laſt Aſſembly; but they do now alſo refer to their Conſideration, the Poſitions that have been laid before this ſaid Aſſembly, by the ſaid Mr. *James Webſter*, and Mr. *Simſon*'s Anſwers thereto, and all other Things relating to this Affair; particularly they remit to the Conſideration of the ſaid Committee, the following Points, that were reſerved by them to be determined after the finiſhing of the principal Cauſe, *Viz.* That as to Mr. *Simſon* his publiſhing Copies of the printed Proceſs, and the Manner in which Mr. *Webſter* brought in the Cauſe before this Aſſembly, by publiſhing in Print his Charge of Error, in a Poſtſcript to the printed Copies of Mr. *Simſon*'s

Letters

Letters to the deceaſt Mr. *Robert Rowan* and Mr. *Webſter*'s Anſwers to this Aſſembly when they deſired him to claſs his Propoſitions and ſpecifie the Articles of the *Confeſſion* of *Faith*, to which they were oppoſite: And the General Aſſembly do hereby Impower the ſaid Committee, to give ſuch Directions to the ſaid Mr. *Simſon* as they ſhall think neceſſary; and in the mean Time, until the Matter be fully tried and examined by this Church, and the ſaid Mr. *John Simſon* be convicted, the Aſſembly diſcharges all the Miniſters of this Church, either in preaching or by printing, to charge the ſaid Mr. *Simſon* as guilty of Error; but Prejudice always to them to ſtate the ſame Propoſitions that are charged againſt him, and to refute the ſame by as ſtrong Arguments as they ſhall think fit: And the General Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Committee to meet for the Ends above mentioned, and expreſt in their former Commiſſion and Inſtructions at *Edinburgh*, upon *Friday* the Tenth Day of *Auguſt* next to come, at Ten of the Clock in the Forenoon, in the Aſſembly Houſe, and to ſit *de Die in Diem*, until they have finiſhed their Work: And the Aſſembly do peremptorily require all the Members of the ſaid Committee, to give punctual Attendance at all the Diets of their Meetings, as they would not be chargeable by this Church, with all the bad Conſequences that may follow the delaying of this Affair: And to the End they may have no Excuſe, the Aſſembly appoints the Clerk to advertiſe all the Members of the ſaid Committee, by Letters, or otherwiſe, of the Time appointed for their Meeting, four Weeks before the ſame approach; and do appoint the ſeveral Presbyteries, to which the Miniſters Members of the ſaid Committee do belong, to ſupply their Churches by preaching, during all the Time that they are waiting upon the Buſineſs hereby committed to them. And the Aſſembly appoints the ſaid Committee, to prepare and lay before the next enſuing Aſſembly, a full and diſtinct Report of their Proceedings in the Matter above committed to them. The Aſſembly having called Parties to intimate the Premiſſes to them, Mr. *Simſon* compeared, and proteſted, That all theſe Errors contained in Mr. *Webſter*'s Libel, that are contrair to the *Scriptures*, and our *Confeſſion of Faith* or *Catechiſms*, he has never taught them as his Opinion, or as Truth; but has on the contrair refuted them, and is reſolved through the Grace of GGD ſtill to forbear the teaching ſuch Errors; and therefore he did look upon the foreſaid Injunction only to import, That he is not to teach ſuch Errors as ſeveral Members of this Church have (by wrong Reports that have gone through the Land) imagined had been taught by him; for which the former Part of this his Declaration, he hoped, would give ſufficient Satisfaction, until the Proceſs be duly tried; for he was perſwaded, the venerable Aſſembly would not do any Thing ſo contrair to the common Rules of Equity and Juſtice, as to lay on him an Injunction, which did inſinuate, That he had taught any Error, before they had heard the Cauſe, and found him guilty: And he proteſted further, That Mr. *Webſter* had ſuccumbed in the Probation of his printed Libel, *viz.* His Poſtſcript to the printed Copy of the Letters to Mr. *Robert*

Rowan; And that in Caſe of this Aſſembly do not publiſh in their Minutes what may clear this to the World, he proteſted, That he might have Liberty to publiſh his own Vindication. The General Aſſembly having heard this Proteſt, they do hereby Impower the ſaid Committee to ſuſpend the ſaid Mr. *Simſon* for ſuch Time as they ſhall think fit, in Caſe it be found, That he contraveen the Injunctions hereby given to him; and they remitted the Conſideration thereof to the Commitee appointed to conſider the whole Proceſs.

VIII.

ACT *for facilitating the Planting of the* Highlands.

Edinburgh, 14th *May* 1716, Seſſ. 10.

THE General Aſſembly conſidering the many Vacancies that are now in the North, and *Highlands*, they do diſcharge the planting in *Lowland* Congregations, Preachers having the *Iriſh* Language, eſpecially ſuch as have been educated upon the *Highland* Burſaries: Or, the tranſporting to the *Lowlands*, Miniſters planted in the *Highlands*, without a particular Allowance of the General Aſſembly.

IX.

ACT *impowering the Commiſſion to ſend Committees to the* Highlands, *&c.*

Edinburgh, 16th *May* 1716.

THE General Aſſembly impowers their Commiſſion to ſend Committees to the North and *Highlands*, to viſit the Churches there, and conſider the State thereof, and to purge and plant Kirks; and which Committees are to join the Presbyteries of the Bounds they are ſent to, and to aſſiſt them in their Work.

X.

ACT *appointing the Diet of the next General Aſſembly.*

At *Edinburgh*, 16th *May* 1716, Seſſ. ult.

THE next General Aſſembly of this National Church, is appointed to be held at *Edinburgh*, the firſt *Thurſday* of *May* next to come, being the ſecond Day of that Month, in the Year of our LORD, One thouſand ſeven hundred and ſeventeen.

This Aſſembly was concluded with Prayer, Singing the 124*th Pſalm throughout, and pronouncing of the Bleſſing.*

Collected and Extracted from the Records of the General Aſſembly, by

JO. DUNDAS, *Cls. Eccl. Scot.*

A

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After Sermon by Mr. *William Mitchel* Moderator of the General Assembly *Anno* 1714, (Mr. *William Carstares* Moderator of the last General Assembly, who should have preached, being removed by Death) the Ministers and Ruling Elders, Members of this Assembly, did convene, and Mr. *William Hamilton* was chosen Moderator, *May* 3d, 1716, *Session* 1.

Acts appointing the King's Commission to the Earl of *Rothes*, and also His Majesty's most Gracious Letter to the General Assembly to be recorded. *Ibidem.*

His Grace His Majesty's Commissioner's Speech to the General Assembly, at opening the General Assembly. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed to draw an Answer to His Majesty's most Gracious Letter. *Ibid.*

A Committee appointed for Overtures, *&c. Ibid.*

A Committee for Bills, References and Appeals. *Ibid.*

A Committee for revising the Commissions to the Members of this Assembly, censuring Absents, naming Ministers to preach before his Grace His Majesty's Commissioner, and taking up Lists of Probationers for the Holy Ministry, and Students of Divinity. *Ibid.*

The Commission Book and Synod Books ordered to be produced next Diet to be revised. *Ibid.*

Appoinment of a Diet of the General Assembly for Prayer. *Ibid.*

A Diet spent in Prayer, *May* 4th, 1716. *Sess.* 2.

Nomination of Ministers to preach before his Majesty's Commissioner. *Ibid.*

Some more Commissions produced, Additions to Committees, *May* 5th, 1716. *Sess.* 3.

Letter from the Presbytery of *Kirkwall*, excusing their Absence, remitted to a Committee, *&c. Ibid.*

An Answer to the King's most Gracious Letter, unanimously approven, and Letters ordered to be written to the Secretaries of State with the said Answer; and the Assembly's humble Desire, That his Grace the King's Commissioner would transmit their Answer to His Majesty, which his Grace undertook to do. *Ibid.*

Resolve for a Congratulatory Address to the King, and a Remit to a Committee for drawing the same. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for Commissions and Overtures concerning Professor *Simson*'s sitting as a Member of this Assembly, and about his Complaint against Mr. *James Webster*, for publishing in Print a Paper charging the said Professor with *Arminianism*, *Jesuitism* and *Socinianism*. *Ibid.*

Report concerning Commissions to Members of this Assembly, with an Act sustaining the Commissions, excusing some Absents, and appointing that Synods and Presbyteries be written to, to take Care that the Acts anent sending Commissioners to the General Assembly, be punctually observed. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Members out of the reſpective Synods, appointed to receive the Inſtructions of Presbyteries to their Commiſſioners in this Aſſembly, and any Overtures propoſed by Synods and Presbyteries, and to claſs the ſame; as alſo, to conſider the State of the Church in the North, the *Highlands* and *Iſlands*, and Growth of Popery, &c. *Ibid.*

A Committee of Members out of the reſpective Synods, appointed to reviſe and examine the Regiſter of the Commiſſion of the late General Aſſembly, and to prepare the References of the ſaid Commiſſion to this Aſſembly and Report. *Ibid.*

Committees appointed to reviſe and examine the Regiſters of the Provincial Synods of *Murray*, *Roſs*, *Lothian*, *Merſe*, *Drumfries*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow*, *Argyle*, *Perth*, *Fife*, and *Angus*, and theſe Committees to obſerve the Directions given in the 4th Act of the General Aſſembly *Anno* 1713. *Ibid.*

The Synods of *Aberdeen*, *Argyle*, *Angus* and *Orkney*, their Books not produced at this Time, *Aberdeen* and *Angus* excuſed; but all of them ordered to ſend their Books to the next General Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Petition for the Presbyteries in the Synod of *Roſs*, repreſenting the Largeneſs of their Pariſhes, their Want of Schools, and Probationers having *Iriſh*, and complaining of other Grievances, remitted to the Committee for the North, &c. *May* 7th, *Seſſ.* 4.

Remit to the Committee for Inſtructions to enquire for Burſaries to Students having *Iriſh*. *Ibid.*

A Petition by the Commiſſioners to this Aſſembly from the Presbyteries in *Angus* and *Merns*, repreſenting their Grievances from the late Inſults of *Jacobites* Intruſion on Kirks and Pariſhes there, and from diſaffected School-maſters and Chaplains; remitted to the Committee for the North, &c. *Ibid.*

Upon a Petition for the Presbytery of *Inverneſs*, Mr. *Lauchlan Schaw* Probationer is ordered to go thither, and it is remitted to the Committee for Inſtructions to pitch upon more Probationers having *Iriſh*, to be ſent to the Presbytery. *Ibid.*

Letter from the Presbytery of *Fordice*, excuſing their Abſence, remitted to a Committee. *Ibid.*

Mr *John M'Dermeit* Miniſter, tranſported from *Dalmellingtoun* to *Air*, and to be admitted betwixt and the firſt *Tueſday* of *Auguſt* next. *Ibid.*

Recommended to the Presbytery of *Air* to be careful in ſupplying and planting of the Kirk of *Dalmellingtoun*. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for Inſtructions in Favours of the Miniſter of *Naver*, concerning Augmentation of his Stipend, *May* 8. *Seſſ.* 5.

Remit to the Committees for Overtures to enquire what Prebyteries are deficient, in making or bringing in their Contributions for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge. *Ibid.*

Report of the Committees for Commiſſions and Overtures concerning Profeſſor *Simſon* and Mr. *James Webſter*, ſhewing that Mr. *Webſter* owned his Charge, and Profeſſor *Simſon* denied it; but he agreed to forbear acting as a Member of this Aſſembly until he

be cleared of the foresaid Charge; and both Parties desired that the Matter might be discussed by this Assembly; whereupon a Petition and Propositions presented by Mr. *Webster* were given to Professor *Simson* to answer. *Ibid.*

A Motion made, That Mr. *James Webster* should class his Propositions against Mr. *Simson*; Mr. *Webster* refused, and left it to the Assembly to do it; Mr. *Simson* undertook to answer them as they stood, but under Protestation, that he was not obliged to do it, unless Mr. *Webster* would class them according to the several Heads of *Arminianism*, *Jesuitism* and *Socinianism*, *August* 9th, *Sess.* 6.

A Petition of the Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, representing the Disorders of the deposed Mr. *John Taylor* late Minister at *Wamphray*, remitted to the Committee for Instructions. *Ibid.*

A Petition of the Presbytery of *Brichen*, concerning the Disjunction of the united Parishes of *Lathnet* and *Lochlie*, and Annexation of *Lathnet* to *Naver*, remitted to the Committee for Instructions. *Ibid.*

A Petition of the Presbytery of *Dunkeld*, representing the Largeness of some Parishes in their Bounds, the Irregularities of some Episcopal Ministers there, and their Need of Probationers having *Irish*, remitted of a Committee; but Mr. *Lauchlan M'Intosh* a Probationer having that Language appointed for these Bounds, with a Reference to the Synod and Commission about him. *Ibid.*

Act refusing to sustain an Appeal made to the General Assembly from the Synod of *Lothian*, by some in *Peebles*, against the Settlement of Mr. *John Hay* Probationer there, with a Protestation by *John Stewart*, as Proxie for *Dunbug*, that this should not prejudge him as to the Presentation given to the said Mr. *Hay*, to be Minister of *Dalgatie*, and a Protestation of some Brethren of the Synod of *Fife* to the contrary. *Ibid.*

Upon Report of the Visitors of the late Commission-Book, the same was attested according to the 8th *Act*, *General Assembly* Anno 1706, and the Members of the said Commission thanked and commended for their Diligence and Faithfulness; with a Reserve as to the Settlement of *Kettle* in *Fife*, *May* 11th, 1716. *Sess.* 8.

Reference to the Commission, to consider the Grievances of the Presbytery of *Skye*, remitted to the former Commission. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission, of a Process of Scandal, against *William Agnew* of *Castlewig*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commission, concerning Mr. *Archibald Stark*, a pretended Probationer, under Process for alledged forging a Testimonial. *Ibid.*

Act in Favours of Mr. *George Ogilvie* Minister of *Kirrymuir*, allowing him the Expences of his Process for removing the Intruder, and getting Access to his Church. *Ibid.*

The Members of this Assembly ordered to meet by their several Synods, and name Persons to be a Committee for nominating the Members of the Commission to be appointed by this Assembly, for managing the publick Affairs of this Church, and preparing a Draught of their Commission and Instructions. *Ibid.*

The

The Synod-Books of *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, and *Fife*, examined and atteſted. *Ibid.*

Profeſſor *Simſon* having given in his Anſwers to Mr. *Webſter*'s Propoſitions, Part thereof were read, and Parties heard, and thereafter the Affair delayed till next Diet. *Ibid.*

Liſt of Perſons in the ſeveral Synods brought in, and appointed as a Committee for drawing the Commiſſion to be given by this Aſſembly, naming the Perſons to be thereon, and preparing their Inſtructions, *May* 12. *Seſſ.* 9.

Mr. *Webſter*'s Propoſitions, and Mr. *Simſon*'s Anſwers being read and diſcourſed on, a Committee was named to conſider that Affair, and bring in an Overture thereupon. *Ibid.*

Remit to the Committee for Overtures concerning the Addreſs to the King, *May* 14. *Seſſ.* 10.

Act appointing, That depoſed Miniſters who continue to exerciſe the Miniſtry, be proſecuted as Intruders; and enjoining Presbyteries forthwith to plant vacant Kirks, and that Mr. *John Taylor*'s Irregularities be repreſented to theſe in the Government, *Ibid.*

Report of the Committee for Overtures anent the Diligence of Presbyteries, in procuring Contributions for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge, and an Appointment to write to Presbyteries and Synods deficient. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to appoint the Procurator and Agents for the Church, to aſſiſt the Presbyteries in *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, in carrying on Diſjunctions and new Erections, and obtaining legal Stipends to Pariſhes. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, and Appointment on the Procurator and Agents for the Church to aſſiſt the Presbytery of *Bricben*, in carrying on a Diſjunction of the Pariſhes of *Lathnet* & *Lochlie*, & annexing *Lochlie* to *Naver*, and obtaining Stipends thereto. *Ibid.*

Act diſcharging any Tranſportation of Miniſters from *Roſs* and *Sutherland* for Two Years, without Conſent of the reſpective Presbyteries there. *Ibid.*

Act appointing Mr. *John Balfour* Probationer, to repair to *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, and inſtructing the Commiſſion to ſend Mr. *David Muſhet* thither, ſo ſoon as he ſhall be licenſed, and alſo ſuch other Probationers having *Iriſh* as the Commiſſion ſhall ſee needful. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to aſſiſt the Presbyteries in *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, in obtaining a Gift of the Biſhops and vacant Stipends there, towards new Erections, Settlement of Schools, and maintaining Probationers. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to aſſiſt the Presbyteries in *Roſs* and *Sutherland*, in obtaining Part of the Rents of the Deanry there, for augmenting the Stipends of *Arderſeer* and others. *Ibid.*

Appointment on the Procurator and Agents for the Church, to aſſiſt Mr. *Thomas Chiſholm* at *Kilmorack*, in obtaining a legal Stipend. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to give Aſſiſtance to Miniſters in obtaining Reparation of the Damages they ſuſtained by Rebels plundering them, and for recovering of the publick Libraries taken away by them. *Ibid.*

Appointment on the Procurator and Agents for the Church, to aſſiſt Mr. *William M'Ghie* at *Balmackghie*, in obtaining Poſſeſſion of his Church and Manſe, and removing Mr. *John M'Millan* therefrom. *Ibid.*

Remit of the Proceſs, Mr. *James Webſter* againſt Mr. *John Simſon*, to the Committee of the late General Aſſembly, and the former Committee for this Affair, appointed to bring in the Draught of an Act to that Effect. *Ibid.*

His Grace His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, acquainted the Aſſembly, That he had received a Letter from one of the Secretaries of State, bearing an Account of His Majeſty's gracious Acceptance of the Aſſembly's Return to His Letter; and that His Majeſty was well pleaſed with the Expreſſions of Duty and Loyalty which He found therein, *May* 14. Poſt Merid. *Seſſ.* 11.

The Aſſembly's Addreſs of Congratulation to the King, upon the Account of the Succeſs againſt the Rebels voted and approven. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion to ſome Miniſters and Elders, for diſcuſſing ſome publick Affairs, and the Nomination of the Members thereof approven. *Ibid.*

Reference to theCommiſſion to enquire how the Acts enjoining the publick reading of His Majeſty's Proclamation againſt Immorality have been obeyed. *Ibid.*

Appointment for writing Letters to be ſent with Addreſs to the Secretaries of State, *May* 15. *Seſſ.* 12.

Petitions of ſome in the Pariſh of *Kettle*, with reſpect to Mr. *John Meldrum*'s Settlement there, and an Overture in the Cauſe being propoſed, voted and diſapproven, it was referred to the Committee for Overtures, to bring in ſome other Overture to be conſidered by the Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

A Collection allowed in open Aſſembly for *Mathilda Adams*, and two other Perſons, with a Recommendation in her Favours to Presbyteries deficient in obeying a former Act, *May* 15. *Seſſ.* 13.

The Synod Books of *Murray*, *Lothian*, *Galloway*, *Glaſgow*, and *Perth*, examined and atteſted. *Ibid.*

The Synod-Books of *Merſe* and *Dumfries*, upon their own Deſire, returned without atteſting until amended. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion for planting the Vacancie in the Kirk of *Elgin*. *Ibid.*

Appointment on Mr. *William Moriſon* and Mr. *Lauchlan Schaw*, Probationers having *Iriſh*, to repair to the Presbytery of *Inverneſs*. *Ibid.*

Appointment on Mr. *Thomas Fairbairn* to repair to the Presbytery of *Aberlour*, with a Reference to the Commiſſion to ſend another thither. *Ibid.*

Appointment on Mr. *John Scrogie* to repair to the Presbytery of *Stabogie*. *Ibid.*

Upon a Petition for the Presbytery of *Zetland*, repreſenting the Caſe of the *Fair Iſle*, *Foulla* and *Skerries*, remote Iſlands, having no Miniſters reſiding therein; the Largeneſs of other Pariſhes in

in *Zetland*, ruinous Condition of the Kirks and Manſe of *Delting* and others there, Want of Schools, the great Charge of Miniſters there, in going about their Presbyterial Work, the not Payment of former Allowances granted them by the Aſſembly, the Deficiency in the Collection for the Bridge of *Strom*, Want of Probationers, *&c.* The General Aſſembly appoints Thanks to be given to ahe Earl of *Mortoun*, for his kind Countenance ro the Brethren of *Zetland*, and that he be entreated to give his Aſſtance for removing the above Grievances, and the Petition referred to the Commiſſion. *Ibid.*

Upon the Petitions of Mr. *William M'Beth* and Mr. *Hugh Carſs*, Miniſters in *Caithneſs*, each of them was allowed 100 *l. Scots. Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion concerning a new Erection in *Falkirk*, and planting the Vacancy there. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, of a Proceſs of Scandal againſt *James Neilſon* in *Calmunel*, brought to the Aſſembly by his Appeal from the Synod of *Galloway*. *Ibid.*

The King's Allowance for defraying the publick Charges of the Church not being paid this Year ſo punctually as formerly, there was no Committee named for reviſing the Procurator and Agent's Accounts: But they are appointed to be in Readineſs to lay the ſame before the next Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

The Petition of Mr. *John Dunlop* late Miniſter at *Mouſewl*, craving a Review of the late Commiſſion's Sentence of Depoſition againſt him, refuſed, 16th *May* 1716. *Seſſ.* ult.

Recommendation to the Synod of *Fife*, to remove the Difficulties which have occurred in the Execution of the Sentence of the late Commiſſion for Mr. *John Meldrum*'s Settlement at *Kettle*. *Ibid.*

Appointments on Mr. *David Ferguſſon* and Mr. *James Bell*, Probationers, to repair to the Presbytery of *Brichen*, and Mr. *Robert Robertſon* to *Aberbrothick*, *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion. to conſider of a Memorial of this Church's Grievances drawn up by this Aſſembly, and the Commiſſion appointed to ſend Commiſſioners to *London*, to proſecute the Ends thereof. *Ibid.*

Appointment on the Commiſſion, to ſend Committees to purge and plant Churches in the *North* and *Highlands*. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion to endeavour to obtain a new Erection in *Duirneſs*, and a Gift of the vacant Stipend there, to Mr. *Brodie* their Miniſter.

Mr. *John M'Arthur* recommended to the Synod of *Fife* for their Burſary, and the Commiſſion impowered to provide Burſaries to other Students having *Iriſh*. *Ibid.*

Intimation of a Sentence of Depoſition by the Presbytery of *Brichen*, againſt Mr. *Andrew Geddie* at *Farnal*, for his Compliance in the late Rebellion. *Ibid.*

Reference to the Commiſſion, to conſider the State of the Univerſities and Colleges in *Scotland*, and as they ſhall ſee Cauſe, to apply for a Viſitation thereof. *Ibid.*

The Commiſſion impowered to ſend a Probationer having *Iriſh*, to the Prebytery of *Forreſs*. *Ibid.*

Recommendation to Synods and Presbyteries deficient in ſending in their charitable Contributions, for *John Binning* Son to Mr. *Hugh Binning* Miniſter at *Govan*, yet to ſend in the ſame. *Ibid.*

Liſt of Probationers and Students of Divinity brought in, and ordered to be recorded. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation the Synod of *Dumfries* and Presbytery of *Lochmaben*, againſt the Heritors and others of *Daltoun*, for not inſiſting in their Appeal to this Aſſembly, with Relation to the Settlement of Mr. *Robert Kirkland* to be Miniſter there. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation the Synod of *Angus* and *Mernis*, againſt Mr. *Robert Spence*, for not inſiſting in his Appeal to this Aſſembly from the Sentence of that Synod, depoſing from the Office of Schoolmaſter at *Montroſe*. *Ibid.*

Proteſtation the Synod of *Murray* againſt the Pariſh of *Logie*, Synod of *Roſs*, and Presbyteries there, for not inſiſting in their Appeal to this Aſſembly, with Relation to Mr. *Daniel Mackenzie*'s Settlement at *Aberlour*. *Ibid.*

Committee for reviſing the Minutes of this Aſſembly, and giving Orders for printing the publick Acts thereof. *Ibid.*

The Moderator's Speech at cloſing of the General Aſſembly. *Ibid.*

His Grace His Majeſty's High Commiſſioner's Speech to the General Aſſembly, after they had gone through their whole Work. *Ibid.*

The Aſſembly cloſed. *Ibid.*

FINIS.